Annex "A," Subparagraph 1q, Sociological Background

PUBLIC WELFARE

132 Clothing. Since the climate of the Danube basin is continental and therefore characterized by a wide temperature range, the population must be prepared to wear varying types of apparel befitting the differing seasons.

291 In our century economic forces and the influence of urbanization have caused many items of the native folk dress to be replaced by European styles of dress. Although some elaborately ornamented folk costumes are still being worn on holidays, a discussion of this clothing belongs more properly to the section on folk art or crafts.[1]

511 291 At present there is a great shortage of footwear among the Magyar peasants. This is a lesser problem in summer when most of them are accustomed to going bare-footed. In the cold, snowy winter months, high top boots (csizma) are the preferred footwear of Hungarian men and women alike. Before World War II high top boots were worn both at work and with the holiday dress. Today, since they have practically disappeared from the stores, they are being worn exclusively as holiday attire. Under the influence of the military, stout laced boots were adopted by the peasants during the shortages of World War II but even

1[See cat. 116, p. 94-5 -- Analyst]

since part of this region is covered with volcanic soils, it has excellent wines. 134 241

The northwestern part of Transdanubia is the most intensively farmed area in Hungary. Some parts of this area are sandy.

The meteorological conditions of the Carpathian Basin combined with a variety of soils offer rich and varied products to the inhabitants. The Great Plains have a typically continental climate. The yearly precipitation is 500-600 mm. With a yearly average temperature of only 10 centigrades (due to the frequent -30°C winter colds), the amount of sunshine reaching this area in the summer equals that of the French Riviera. There is a relatively large number of hours of sunshine (1,900-2,000 annually on the Great Plains) which gives to the crops greater resistance to parasites, increases their power of germination and facilitates storage and transportation. The climate of Transdanubia constitutes a transition between the continental climate of the lowlands and the more coastal climate of the West European countries. 132

The chief crop in Hungary is wheat, and cereals in general. Corn production equals that of wheat and is used primarily for fattening stock. 243

Good quality tobacco is being produced on some 8,000 acres of Hungarian soil, especially in sandy areas. [249]

9: Eppstein S-4 (no date) 1945 EC1 Hungary EC1

As such, its aspect—even apart from the monotony of the landscape—is less attractive than that of West Hungary. The effects of the Turkish rule, which turned populous cultivated areas into desolate wastes, are still visible. The survivors from the villages ravaged by the Turks took refuge in the towns such as Szeged, Debreczen, Kecskemét, Szabadka or Hódmezövásárhely, which swelled into enormous conglomerations, villages on the huge scale, each with one or two larger buildings in its centre and round them miles and miles of straight village streets, muddy in winter, dusty in summer, lined with row after row of uniform, white one-storied cottages. Between one town and its neighbour, perhaps 30 miles distant, the whole countryside would be left empty. Gradually, as security returned, the people ventured out. At first they built only rude shelters, *tányas*, in which the men passed the summer, returning in winter to the towns, where they had left the women, children and old people. Presently the *tányas* were made permanent and developed into regular farms, so that in this part of Hungary there are no villages, but only the few great towns and between them the scattered *tányas*, whose isolation is rendered more complete by the almost impossible state of the roads in spring and autumn.

The climate, too, is unfriendly. The summer is often exceedingly dry, and the whole country seems then to dissolve into a cloud of dust. On the other hand, the spring, when the snows melt in the mountains where the Tisza and its tributaries have their head-waters, often brings disastrous floods which cover the fields and sweep away the

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flimsy mud-built houses. It is only recently that the work, not only of regulating the rivers against flood, but of irrigating the plains against drought, has been seriously undertaken. With modern methods an intensive cultivation, in particular of fruit trees, was begun. Through it some centres, such as Kecskemét, have achieved considerable prosperity.

THE BOUNDARY HILLS. The plain is bounded by hills. In the south the plain reaches right down to the frontiers of historic Hungary, and the first hills are those of Serbia. In the north, however, the Trianon frontier still left Hungary a certain amount of hilly country. This comes down close to the capital itself north of Budapest; indeed, the Danube runs here through what is almost a gorge, with the ruins of old castles overhanging it. East of Budapest the plain reaches further north, but there are still considerable hills, the summits of which are covered with beech forests and their lower slopes with vineyards. Here, too, are some noteworthy towns: Miskolcz and Diosgyör, centres of industry, and Eger, seat of an archbishopric, with the remains of an old Turkish fortress and a Turkish minaret still to be seen. Beyond this again comes another group of isolated hills, which produce the famous Tokaj wine, the richest and most powerful of all the Hungarian wines, of which it is said that it is 'the king of wines and the wine of kings'.

The mountains which enclose the Alföld on the east are those which form the boundary of Transylvania, a great table-land encircled north, east